

Town of Belmont
Massachusetts
Select Board

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: On December 3rd the world celebrates International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The Town of Belmont in partnership with the Belmont Human Rights Commission marks this day as a way to bring awareness and understanding to the issues impacting the lives of persons with disabilities while also recognizing the extraordinary achievements and contributions of persons with disabilities in our town, nationally and globally;

WHEREAS: We recognize that all who live, work, and visit Belmont benefit from the integration and participation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of life;

WHEREAS: The Town of Belmont recognizes that true inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities involves equal opportunities, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency;

WHEREAS: Substantial progress has been made to protect the rights of those who live with disabilities. Nevertheless, we must continue the work to ensure that all members of our community can enjoy their full rights and achieve equal participation;

WHEREAS: Persons with disabilities are entitled to respect for their human dignity regardless of the origin, nature, visibility and degree of their disability; far too often persons with disabilities face differential treatment and discrimination;

WHEREAS: Persons with disabilities are entitled to have their needs taken into consideration at all stages of economic and social planning;

WHEREAS: The Town of Belmont recognizes that there is a need for education and awareness of the public at large, to appreciate the accommodations needed by persons with disabilities as well as the contributions they make; far too often members of the public who do not live with disabilities may not be aware of the importance of these factors and that the work to create a more inclusive society benefits us all;

WHEREAS: The Town of Belmont wants to work more collaboratively to create a culture of inclusivity, which involves creating mechanisms for persons with disabilities to provide feedback on how our town can be a more welcoming place for persons of all abilities;

WHEREAS: Celebrating the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on a yearly basis opens the space for much needed conversation about the invaluable contributions and needs of persons with disabilities; it also creates awareness on further actions needed to make Belmont a more inclusive and welcoming place where persons with disabilities can visit, live, and work;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Select Board of the Town of Belmont hereby proclaims December 3rd as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities to celebrate the contributions of persons with disabilities in Belmont and across the world.